

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank Primary Examiner Michelle L. Sams for the telephonic Examiner Interview held December 8, 2011, and for the courtesies extended to Applicants' Attorney Gary V. Harkcom during the interview. The present amendment has been prepared consistent with the issues discussed during the interview. Applicants' Statement of the Substance of Examiner Interview is provided on pages 10-11 of this response.

In the Official Action, independent claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MATSUMOTO et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0080958 A1) in view of HIRANO (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0047917 A1).

Upon entry of the present amendment, each of independent claims 20-22 has been amended. Claims 1-19 were previously cancelled. Thus, claims 20-22 are currently pending for consideration by the Examiner.

Independent claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MATSUMOTO in view of HIRANO. During the Examiner Interview referenced above, a general agreement was reached that a clarification of the "specific order" to indicate that the specific order may include interspersing the graphics images, video images, and still images among each other would likely overcome the current rejection. A brief summary of this general agreement is included in both the Examiner's "Applicant-Initiated Interview Summary," mailed December 15, 2011, and Applicants' "Statement of the Substance of Examiner Interview," provided on pages 10-11 of this response.

In the present amendment, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 20-22 consistent with the general agreement reached during the Examiner Interview to recite: *the*

specific order stored in the order storage can be changed according to the request from the program executed by the executioner to include any one specific order of a total number of possible specific orders of superimposing that may be generated based on the stored graphics images, the stored video images, and stored still images (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit amended independent claims 20-22 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of MATSUMOTO and HIRANO, for at least the reason that neither MATSUMOTO, nor HIRANO, nor the combination thereof, discloses or renders obvious the combination of features recited therein, including the amended claim provisions cited above.

For instance, the Official Action acknowledges that MATSUMOTO fails to disclose changing the specific order of the display list. (See Official Action, page 5.) Additionally, Applicants submit that the cited sections of HIRANO only disclose the separation of an original composite signal S1 into a separate menu data D1, character data D2, still image data D3, and moving image data D4; providing optimal image processing to each of the resulting character layer 5, still image layer 6, and moving image layer 7; and then subsequently displaying an improved quality composite image superimposed in apparently the same order as the original composite signal, in contrast to that recited in each of amended independent claims 20-22.

Thus, neither MATSUMOTO, nor HIRANO, nor the combination thereof discloses or renders obvious changing the specific order stored in the order storage according to the request from the program executed by the executioner to include any one specific order of a total number of possible specific orders of superimposing that may be generated based on the stored graphics images, the stored video images, and stored still images. In other words, neither

MATSUMOTO, nor HIRANO, nor the combination thereof discloses or renders obvious the ability to intersperse stored graphics images, video images, and still images among each other.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features recited in each of amended independent claims 20-22 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of MATSUMOTO and HIRANO. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MATSUMOTO and HIRANO be withdrawn.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 20-22 satisfy all of the regulatory and statutory requirements for patentability, for at least the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn, and that an indication of the allowability of claims 20-22 be provided in the next Official communication.

As a final matter, should there be any outstanding matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number provided at the end of this response.

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW

On December 8, 2011, a telephonic Examiner Interview was held regarding the present patent application. The participants in the telephonic interview were Primary Examiner Michelle L. Sams and Applicants' Attorney Gary V. Harkcom. During the interview, Primary Examiner Sams and Mr. Harkcom discussed the Official Action rejection of independent claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MATSUMOTO et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0080958 A1) in view of HIRANO (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0047917) in detail, primarily using independent claim 20 as an exemplary claim.

Mr. Harkcom argued that at least the feature of independent claim 20 that recites "the specific order stored in the order storage can be changed according to the request from the program executed by the executioner" is not disclosed by MATSUMOTO's paragraph [0083], as asserted by the Official Action. Mr. Harkcom also argued that HIRANO did not remedy this distinct deficiency of MATSUMOTO. Mr. Harkcom further argued that the cited sections of HIRANO only disclose the separation of an original composite signal S1 into a separate menu data D1, character data D2, still image data D3, and moving image data D4; providing optimal image processing to each of the resulting character layer 5, still image layer 6, and moving image layer 7; and then subsequently displaying an improved quality composite image superimposed in apparently the same order as the original composite signal, in contrast to that recited in independent claim 20. Additionally, Mr. Harkcom further argued that the cited paragraph [0064] of HIRANO refers to alternative sources of the input original composite signal S1, and not to the various storage areas recited in independent claim 20.

After a lengthy discussion of the provisions of independent claim 20 and the asserted sections of MATSUMOTO and HIRANO, a general agreement was reached that a clarification of the "specific order" to indicate that the specific order may include interspersing the graphics images, video images, and still images among each other would likely overcome the current rejection. However, the Examiner indicated that the prior art search would need to be updated before a final determination of patentability could be made. Mr. Harkcom stated that a response to the Official Action would likely be filed soon

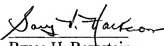
SUMMARY

From the amendments, arguments, and remarks provided above, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims in the present patent application are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action is respectfully requested and an indication of allowance of claims 20-22 is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the patent application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made by this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Takakazu SHIOMI et al.


for Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

December 22, 2011
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Gary V. Harkcom
Reg. No. 62,956